

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	69044	Agenda Number	17.
Meeting Date:	3/23/2017			Department:	Management Services
Subject					
Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide forensic biology and DNA analysis services in an amount not to exceed \$3,999,144. Related to Item(s): 15, 16, 45					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Funding in the amount of \$365,574 is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of the Austin Police Department. Funding for the remaining 54 months of the contract period is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:					
For More Information:	Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, (512) 974-2222				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:					
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					
Additional Backup Information					
<p>This interlocal agreement will enable the Crime Laboratory Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide forensic biology and DNA analysis of evidence collected by the Austin Police Department (APD). Under this agreement, DPS will utilize services of existing and newly hired personnel to perform work on APD cases that are awaiting forensic biology and DNA analysis. DPS will be responsible for the training and daily oversight of all personnel who will perform these services for APD cases. All forensic biology and DNA analysis will be performed in accordance with DPS policies and procedures. APD will have the authority to prioritize its casework for analysis.</p> <p>APD received \$1,419,000 in the FY2016-2017 Operating Budget to provide funding to fully staff the APD DNA laboratory. The breakdown of that \$1,419,000 included \$827,530 in salary funding for eight employees and \$591,470 in commodity funding for DNA equipment and supplies. Due to the closure of APD's DNA laboratory, those eight employees were not hired, and the equipment and funds have not been spent. APD intends to use \$365,574 of the \$1,419,000, for this interlocal agreement with DPS.</p> <p>The primary goal of this agreement is to assist APD with the elimination of the existing backlog of DNA casework by increasing the DNA casework capacity available to it. As APD is able to take advantage of the additional DNA casework capacity available to it through this agreement and others, it will provide monthly updates on the size of the DNA evidence backlog. In addition, it is envisioned that this DPS lab capability will serve as the kernel for the future DNA analysis services being researched and recommended by a consultant under separate agreement.</p>					

A delay in approving or failure to approve this agreement will result in an increased number of untested DNA samples adding to the existing backlog of APD DNA casework. Performing these services assists law enforcement with solving crimes by, for example, identifying unknown suspects, linking DNA profiles between crime scenes, and eliminating suspects in sexual assault cases.